

## THE B. M. C. MEETS.

The Eleventh Convention's Work at New Haven.—Prof. J. McKenny Jones is Grand Master.

The eleventh session of the B. M. C., Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of America, convened at New Haven in Harmonic Hall, October 7th, with Grand Master Edward H. Morris in the chair. The visitors were welcomed by Mayor Studley. Mr. George Wilde, the first fraternal delegate from the Grand Lodge, of England, was introduced, and he delivered a telling address, setting forth the principles and achievements of the Order. He is a gentleman of scholarly bearing, an orator of ability, and his deliverance was rapturously applauded.

The routine business, reception of annual reports and the auditing of the accounts took place in executive session. The most important legislation was the appropriation of \$75,000 for the purchase of a site, and the construction and equipment of a building for the national headquarters. Despite the eloquence and energetic efforts of Mr. Thomas H. Wright to have the headquarters located in Washington the majority favored the retention of Philadelphia as the central office. At the instance of Corinthian Lodge, No. 3857, District of Columbia, the sum of \$100 was unanimously appropriated to purchase a suitably engraved gold medal for the retiring Grand Master E. H. Morris, as a testimonial for his efficient and conscientious services.

The greatest interest hinged upon the election of officers, which took place on Friday, the 10th. The result was as follows:

Grand Master, J. McHenry Jones, West Virginia; Deputy Grand Master George E. Temple, Missouri; Editor Odd Fellows' Journal, J. C. Asbury, Virginia. These were elected without opposition. The race for Grand Secretary was somewhat spirited, and the outcome was quite a surprise to the uninitiated. The nominees were Chas. H. Brooks for re-election, James F. Needham and J. J. C. McKinley. Mr. McKinley withdrew in the early part of the voting and threw his strength to Needham. Mr. Needham, of Philadelphia was elected, the vote being Needham 151, Brooks 130. Twenty-three nominations were made for the selection of four Grand Directors. Those elected, and the votes received by them were: W. L. Houston, District of Columbia, 183; L. M. Porter, Arkansas, 174; Rev. E. P. Jones, Mississippi, 169; Nelson C. Mitchell, Massachusetts, 98. The highest number of votes received other than those elected, was 90, which went to Col. W. A. Pledger, of Georgia.

Mr. W. L. Houston received the highest vote cast for Grand Director, which was a deserved compliment to him and an evidence of his high standing with the fraternity throughout the country. The choice of the convention will meet the approval of the Order everywhere, as Prof. Jones is a parliamentarian of ripe experience, and Mr. Needham has been a true and tried officer for many years. The others are well-known as capable and painstaking members and workers.

The District of Columbia got both bitter and sweet. The twenty-seven delegates after canvassing the names of Mr. Thos. H. Wright for Grand Master, David Clark, for Deputy, David Warner, for Grand Treasurer, and W. L. Houston for Grand Director, finally decided to endorse Mr. Warner. He was defeated, however, by W. H. Smith, of Hampton, Va., by a vote of 160 to 69. After an all-night session, adjournment was had Saturday morning, after a general love-feast. The next convention will be held in 1904 at Columbus, Ohio.

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY.

A notable event was the celebration of the silver anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Israel Cook, which occurred a few evenings ago at their residence, 1515 15th street northwest. The ceremony was pronounced by Rev. J. Anderson, of Shiloh Baptist Church. The original ceremony was performed by Rev. John Gaskins, Rev. Taylor's predecessor as pastor at Shiloh. Mrs. Cook's maiden name was Miss Lucy Ball, and both she and her husband

are natives of Virginia. Mr. Cook has been a resident of the District for twenty-seven years. For ten years he has been a deacon in Shiloh Baptist Church, serving six years as chairman of the Board. He is now a trusted employee of Senator W. B. Allison. The presents were numerous and costly. Among the principal pieces were a silver salad dish, given by the wives of the deacons of the church; a water service, by the deacons; a chocolate urn, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Reed; fine lamp, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gilmore; tea urn, Dr. R. F. Plummer; and about \$200 in silver coins from the members of Shiloh Baptist Church as a testimonial of his faithful service as an officer. A letter of approval accompanied the latter gift, signed by Messrs. J. G. Semple, William Lanier, Wash Grady, John L. Jackson, W. F. Smith, Jeff Minor, Charles Jackson, Charles Roy, and James Kent.

## Tour of Batson and Miller

Batson and Millar, the entrepreneurs, are on an extensive tour of New England. October 22nd they will be at Music Fund Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 28th, Providence, P. I., Oct. 29th, New Haven, Conn., Oct. 30th, Boston, Mass., Nov. 3rd, Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 4th, Boston, Nov. 5th, after-



Grand Master E. H. Morris

noon and evening, Worcester, Mass., Nov. 6th, New Bedford, Mass., Nov. 7th, Fall River, Mass., Nov. 10th, and 15th, St. Michaels, Md., Nov. 11th and 14th, Widdville, Md., Nov. 12th and 13th, at Easton, Md.

Mr. Millar has also accepted the management of Mme. Marie Selika, and S. Kloski Williams, and will present the mon Christmas night at Music Hall, Baltimore. The artists appearing will be Miss Flora Batson, Queen of Song; Mme. Marie Selika, Prima Soprano; S. Veloski Williams, Australia's premier basso and character artist. Miss Clara L. Scudder, pianiste, just returned from Scotland.

## BETHEL'S PRESIDENT RESIGNS.

To the surprise and consternation of his host of friends, at the executive meeting of the board of managers of Bethel Literary and Historical Association, Tuesday evening, Prof. F. L. Cardozo tendered his resignation as president of that organization. Pressure of business is given as the cause, his increased duties as principal of the immense Stevens Building and his obligations as director of the colored night schools occupying all of his time. He had just entered upon his second term, and with much pains and no little expense, had prepared a program covering several months, embracing addresses by some of the most brilliant speakers in the country. Logically his successor would be Mr. George W. Jackson, of Indiana, first vice-president, and after him Mrs. M. G. Lewis, second vice-president, but it is said that neither care to assume the burden of the place. In the event of their declination, rumor has it that the office will be turned over to a prominent member of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, who has been quite anxious for years to control the destinies of Bethel Literary. The abdication of Prof. Cardozo will be severely felt by the patrons and loyal supporters of the organization.

Service of song every Sunday at St. Luke's P. E. Church, at 5 p. m.

## The Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers

Is the leading Colored Fraternal Society of the United States. It was organized January, 1881, by William W. Browne, and chartered in April, 1883, under the laws of the State of Virginia, with headquarters at Richmond, Va. Its membership is both male and female, and consists of all persons of good health from 14 to 60 years of age. Its membership of 60,000 is divided into Fountains and Circles. It pays sick benefits from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week, and pays death benefits from \$24.56 to \$1000.

**BENEFITS PAID**—Total benefits paid to date: Sick dues, \$1,500,000; death benefits, \$714,378.75.

**SENIOR FOUNTAINS**—A Fountain may be organized consisting of 20 or more persons not over 50 years of age paying a joining fee of from \$4.60 to \$5.10 each. The monthly dues are not less than 35 cents in rural districts and not less than 50 cents per month in towns and cities, and a semi-annual tax of 40 cents paid in January and July of each year. Sick benefits paid are from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per week, while death benefits range from \$75 to \$125. A Fountain may be organized in any locality on application to Rev. W. L. Taylor, G. W. Master, or to any of his authorized deputies.

**ROSEBUDS**—For the proper training of the young and their development in thrift, industry and brotherly love, there has been formed a Children's Department known as the Rosebuds. Twenty or more children not less than three nor more than fourteen years of age may form a Rosebud, upon the payment of \$1 each. This department, like the Senior Fountain, pays sick benefits from \$1 to twenty-five cents per week, and death benefits from \$24.50 to \$37. The monthly dues are fifteen cents per month.

**CLASSES**—Persons desiring to leave their beneficiaries at death a larger amount than is paid from Fountain Department, take out policies in one or more of the Classes of the Mutual Benefit Degree. The members of this degree are divided into Circles, and pay joining fees and dues according to the following tables:

Class "B"						Class "E"					
Age	Joining fee.	Value of Certificate after one year.	Value of Certificate before one year.	Annual Dues	Quarterly Dues	Age	Joining fee.	Value of Certificate after one year.	Value of Certificate before one year.	Annual Dues	Quarterly Dues
Age 14 to 25	\$2.50	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$1.75	\$1.20	Age 14 to 25	\$5.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$9.50	\$2.50
" 25 to 30	2.75	200.00	100.00	1.75	1.20	" 25 to 30	5.25	500.00	250.00	9.50	2.50
" 30 to 35	3.00	200.00	100.00	1.75	1.20	" 30 to 35	5.50	500.00	250.00	9.50	2.50
" 35 to 40	3.25	200.00	100.00	1.75	1.20	" 35 to 40	5.75	500.00	250.00	9.50	2.50
" 40 to 45	3.50	140.00	70.00	1.43	1.00	" 40 to 45	6.00	450.00	225.00	10.40	2.60
" 45 to 50	3.75	115.00	58.00	1.16	0.83	" 45 to 50	6.25	400.00	200.00	11.40	2.85
" 50 to 55	4.00	70.00	35.00	0.83	0.60	" 50 to 60	6.50	350.00	175.00	11.40	2.85
" 55 to 60	4.25	65.00	33.00	0.83	0.60						

**Class "M"**

Age	Joining fee.	Value of Certificate	Annual dues	Quarterly dues
Age 14 to 25	\$11.00	\$1000.00	\$21.90	\$5.25
" 30 to 35	12.00	1000.00	22.00	5.50
" 35 to 40	12.00	905.00	23.00	5.75
" 40 to 45	13.00	800.00	24.00	6.00
" 45 to 50	13.00	700.00	25.00	6.25

**REGALIA**—The members of the Fountains and Rosebuds of the organization wear no expensive regalia. The regalia of the organization is simple and its cost will be in the easy reach of all, costing from 10 cents to \$3. The same is made by the organization in what is known as the Regalia Department.

**THE SAVINGS BANK**—In March, 1888, there was granted by the Legislature of Virginia a charter to the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers, capital stock \$100,000. The bank commenced business April 3, 1889, and from that time down to the present has steadily increased in volume of business. It now has a paid up capital stock of \$100,000. From the humble sum of \$1,268.69, deposited the first day the bank opened for business in 1889, the deposits have grown to \$350,858, and the volume of business transacted amounts to \$6,190,141.47. During the financial panic of 1893, the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain was the only bank in the city of Richmond that did not cease to pay cash on all checks presented, while the majority of other banks were using script and clearing house checks. This bank had its origin in the brain of William W. Browne, an ex-slave of Haversham, Ga. The banking house is located at 604 North Second Street, Richmond, Va., Rev. W. L. Taylor, President; R. T. Hill, Cashier.

**REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT**—The Real Estate Department has charge of all the real property to the amount of \$220,221.65, situated in various States, consisting of 13 magnificent buildings used as halls, 8 dwellings, 1 hotel, 5 stores and three farms. It also has under its control 16 large buildings leased by it. This department is under the management of Lawyer J. C. Robertson, chief of real estate and attorney for the association, office at 608 N. 2nd Street, Richmond, Va.

**REFORMERS MERCANTILE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION**—Was chartered under the laws of the State of Virginia on the 14th day of December, 1899, with principal office in the city of Richmond, Va. The purpose of this association is to conduct stores (wholesale and retail), buy and sell real property, manage and control hotels, manufacturing establishments, and do general business. The association has in operation Hotel Reformer, 900 N. Sixth Street, Richmond, Va. It is a modern up-to-date structure, heated by steam, cold and hot water baths, also electric cars passing the door. This hotel has accommodations for 150 guests. Mr. A. W. Holmes is manager, and Mr. T. W. Taylor is clerk. It has in operation a system of five stores, located as follows: Richmond, Va.; Washington, D. C.; Manchester, Va.; Portsmouth, Va.; and Roanoke, Va. The first of these stores, at Richmond, Va., was opened April 3d, 1900. It employs a force of 18 men, runs three delivery wagons, and during the first year did \$50,000 worth of business. The other stores have been established since, and have been equally as prosperous. The general manager of the system of stores is Mr. B. L. Jordan, headquarters at 608 N. Second Street, Richmond, Va. This Association was formed on the plans and recommendations made by Rev. W. L. Taylor, its President.

**THE REFORMER PRINTING DEPARTMENT**—Issues a weekly journal, THE REFORMER, which has a circulation of 12,000. This paper is published in the interest of the race, and discusses the leading questions of the day. The subscription price is \$1 per year, or 5c per single copy. The office is equipped with modern up-to-date machinery, run by electricity. It can print anything from a visiting card to a poster 42 by 62 inches. Fine job work of every class and description is made a specialty at lowest prices. Mr. E. W. Brown is editor and business manager, office 608 N. Second Street, Richmond, Va. Correspondence solicited and agents wanted.

**OLD FOLKS' HOME**—In September, 1893, Rev. William W. Brown recommended the formation and establishment of Old Folks' Homes for the benefit of old and decrepit members of the race. Since that time the valuable farm known as Westham, consisting of 6844 acres, located six miles from Richmond, Va., on the historic "James" has been purchased, at a cost of \$14,400. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad runs through the farm, and Westham Station is located on it. Adjoining this farm is Westham Park, one of the most pleasant resorts in the South in summer. It is reached in a few minutes from Richmond by the Westham Electric Railway and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. As this home is for the benefit of the whole race, the co-operation of all charitable friends is prayerfully solicited. All contributions, donations and bequests of every character will be very thankfully received. Mr. T. W. Taylor is chief in charge of the Old Folks' Home, offices at 608 North Second Street, Richmond, Va.

For further information address—  
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